



# Stiftelsen BRÖDET

Newsletter  
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Indien

*Dear Friends and  
Supporters,*



The girl pictured to the right in the blue t-shirt is named Arpana Xess. Her older sister stands on the other side of Raj's wife Svetlana. The girl's parents, Eliyas and Esabala work at a tea plantation in the Dooar region of West Bengal, India. About 50 million people work in the world's tea industry. The work is hard and the conditions are often severe. A large part of the



world's tea production comes from this part of India where both Darjeeling and Assam teas are produced. India is the world's second largest tea producer, only China is bigger. In October 2020 there was a mass strike among India's tea workers protesting their low wages. – Arpana is the third child in the family. From birth she suffered from serious eye problems and was admitted to the School for the Blind in Cooch Behar. When she finished her schooling there, she continued to high school. She graduated with good degree in 2017 and went on to complete university. Arpana is convinced that she can finish her university studies and then find a stable job and be able to take care of her aging parents who live close to the tea plantation. The SB Foundation together with Sweden's Ecumenical council/World Prayer Day has helped to finance Arpana's studies.

It was concluded when delivering food to the homes of the students attending the School for the Blind that several of the houses where their families live are in deplorable conditions. With help of a financial gift of 1 000 Euro from the SB Foundation, planning is underway to improve ten of the worst houses. Arpana's parent's home is first in line for renovation.

India with its 1.3 billion inhabitants and many densely populated areas was feared to be hard hit by the corona pandemic, but so far it hasn't been too affected. India has begun to ease restrictions. This has meant that the School for the Blind has been able to re-open in mid-February for the school's 23 students in grade 9-12. We hope and pray that all goes well, and no one suffers from Corona, says Raj at the school.



Warm regards from Stiftelsen Brödet/SB Foundation  
and us on the board, Arne, Elisabeth, Ivar, Lena, Roger

**Stiftelsen Brödet/SB Foundation - BG 900-4201 och PG 90 04 20-1, Swish 1239004201**

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